

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) Publication number:

0 661 826 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 94308601.7

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: H04B 1/66, H04B 14/04

(22) Date of filing: 22.11.94

(30) Priority: 30.12.93 US 175900

(43) Date of publication of application:
05.07.95 Bulletin 95/27(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB(71) Applicant: International Business Machines
Corporation
Old Orchard Road
Armonk, N.Y. 10504 (US)(72) Inventor: Sudharsanan, Subramania
100 Tower Street No.805

Hudson,
Massachusetts 01749 (US)
Inventor: Suthakaran, Selvarathinam
3031 SW 4th Street
Deerfield Beach,
Florida 33442 (US)

(74) Representative: Litherland, David Peter
IBM United Kingdom Limited
Intellectual Property Department
Hursley Park
Winchester,
Hampshire SO21 2JN (GB)

(54) Perceptual subband coding in which the signal-to-mask ratio is calculated from the subband signals.

(57) A method and system for efficiently compressing a digital audio signal, wherein the digital audio signal includes a plurality of samples. Each of the samples are separated into a plurality of subbands. A signal to mask ratio (SMR) for each the subbands is predicted utilizing a model of relationships between energy values within each of the subbands and SMR values based on a predetermined psychoacoustic model. A number of are allocated bits in response to the predicted SMR and a preselected bit-rate. Then, each of the subbands are quantized based on the number of bits allocated, wherein the digital audio signal may be efficiently compressed.

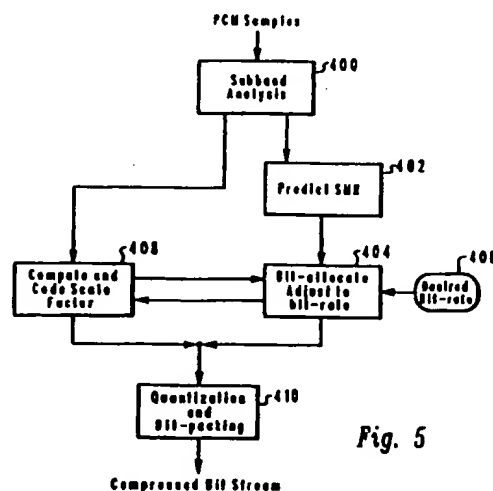


Fig. 5

EP 0 661 826 A2

The present invention relates in general to an improved method and apparatus for efficiently transmitting data from a source apparatus to a receiving apparatus. In particular to the present invention relates to a method and apparatus for compressing data for transmission. Still more particularly, the present invention relates to a method and apparatus for compressing digital audio data.

5 Within a data processing system, a system data bus may be utilized to transmit data to and from a central processing unit, direct access storage devices, communications input/output processors (IOPs), and other peripheral devices. Typically, only one of the several devices connected to the system data bus is able to transmit at any given moment. One of the parameters which establishes the volume of information that the system data bus can transfer within a given period of time, or the capacity of the system data bus, is the bandwidth of the system data bus. The bandwidth of a data bus is the rate, expressed in bytes per second, at which data can be conveyed from a source to a target, such as a workstation or other receiving device connected on the bus. Such bandwidth is limited by the electrical characteristics of the transceivers connected to the system data bus, and the electrical characteristics of the system data bus itself.

10 Similarly, a communication link may be utilized to transmit data from a source processor to a workstation within a distributed data processing system. Such a communication link also has a finite bandwidth which limits the capacity or volume of information that may be transmitted via the communications link.

In data bus design, and in communication link design, data transmission capacity is a resource that may be divided among several devices connected to such communication channels. As more devices are connected to such communications channels, and as the volume of data communicated between devices on such channels increases, the need to conserve channel capacity and optimize channel usage becomes increasingly important.

Recently, data processing systems have been utilized to process, present, and transmit files containing multimedia data. Multimedia data is a collection of "time-related" or "time-based" data files which may be utilized to represent video, sound, and animation. Such multimedia data files are typically quite large. For example, at 300 pixels per inch and 24 bits per pixel, an 8 1/2-by-11-inch colour picture requires more than 25 megabytes of data storage.

In order for a workstation to "play back" the digital audio portion of a multimedia presentation consisting of 16-bit samples in stereo at a sample rate of 44.1 kilohertz (CD audio quality), the workstation must receive 176 kilobytes of sound data per second. Full screen digital video at a resolution of 640 by 480 pixels utilizing 256 colours and a frame rate of 15 frames per second requires the transmission of 36.9 million bits per second to the presenting workstation. Additional colours, pixels, or frames per second further increases these data transmission requirements.

One method of increasing the capacity of the system data bus or the communications link is to transmit data more efficiently by transmitting data in a compressed format. Data compression is the process of eliminating gaps, empty fields, redundancies, and unnecessary data in order to shorten the length of a data file.

For many years, software and hardware designers have employed various data compression schemes to increase the efficiency of data communication channels and storage devices. An example of one such data compression scheme is the Moving Pictures Experts Group (MPEG) standard. MPEG is part of a joint technical committee of the International Standards Organization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). The MPEG standards for audio may be found in ISO-IEC/JTC1 SC29/WG11, *Coding of Moving Pictures And Associated Audio For Digital Storage Media At Up to About 1.5 Mbits/s - Part 3: Audio*, DIS, 11172, April 1992.

45 Basically, MPEG sets forth standards for data compression and may be applied to various signals such as audio and video. Generally, the compression of any data object, such as a page of text, an image, a segment of speech or music, or a video sequence may be thought of as a series of steps, including: (1) a decomposition of that object into a collection of "tokens"; (2) the representation of those tokens by binary strings which have a minimal length in some sense; and (3) the concatenation of the strings in a well defined order. With respect to audio data, subband coding is employed to compress audio data. In compressing audio data, the tokens for audio data are subbands. A "subband" is a frequency band in a frequency domain.

With the proliferation of MPEG decoding methods for video and associated audio in the computer and consumer electronics industry, relatively inexpensive encoding systems have become vital. Compression schemes (also referred to as "encoding" schemes), like MPEG, typically require more processing power at the encoding end than at the decoding or receiving end. While special purpose hardware is being developed for video, audio encoding has mainly been implemented in existing programmable digital signal processors (DSPs). Such an implementation usually requires multiple floating-point DSPs for a real-time

implementation. Such implementations increase the cost of hardware for encoding audio because of the hardware required to perform the required encoding function.

Therefore, it would be advantageous to have a method and apparatus that provides an encoding process (eg MPEG) utilizing subband coding for high quality reproduction while minimizing the amount of hardware needed for such an implementation.

Accordingly, the present invention provides, in a first aspect, a method in a data processing system for efficiently compressing a digital audio signal, wherein said digital audio signal includes a plurality of samples, said method comprising: separating each of said plurality of samples into a plurality of subbands; predicting a signal to mask ratio for each of said plurality of subbands utilizing a model of relationships between energy values within each of said plurality of subbands and signal to mask ratios values based on a predetermined psychoacoustic model; allocating a number of bits in response to said predicted signal to mask ratio and a preselected bit-rate; and quantizing each of said plurality of subbands based on said number of bits allocated, wherein said digital audio signal may be efficiently compressed.

In a second aspect, the present invention provides a data processing system for compressing a digital audio signal, wherein said digital audio signal includes a plurality of samples, said data processing system comprising: separation means for separating each of said plurality of samples into a plurality of subbands; prediction means for predicting a signal to mask ratio for each of said plurality of subbands utilizing a model of relationships between energy values within each of said plurality of subbands and signal to mask ratios values based on a predetermined psychoacoustic model; allocation means for allocating a number of bits in response to said predicted signal to mask ratio and a preselected bit-rate; and quantization means for quantizing each of said plurality of subbands based on said number of bits allocated, wherein said digital audio signal may be efficiently compressed.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention a device is used in determining bit allocation, which in turn provides the required input to enable adaptive quantization of a digital audio signal that has been divided into subbands.

The method and system of a preferred embodiment of the present invention permit the efficient compressing of a digital audio signal, wherein the digital audio signal includes a plurality of samples. Each of the samples are separated into a subbands. A signal to mask ratio (SMR) for each the subbands is predicted utilizing a model of relationships between energy values within each of the subbands and SMR values based on a predetermined psychoacoustic model. A number of bits are allocated in response to the predicted SMR. Then each of the subbands are quantized based on the number of bits allocated, wherein the digital audio signal may be efficiently compressed.

A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 depicts a high level flowchart of a known encoding process;

Figure 2 is a high level flowchart of a process for determining prediction coefficients in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 3 depicts a graph of a typical error profile when a least squares estimate is utilized;

Figure 4 is a graph of signal to mask ratios distributed over a number of subbands;—

Figure 5 depicts a high level flowchart of an audio encoding process in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 6 is a flowchart of a process for predicting SMR values in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 7 depicts an illustration of a data processing system in which a preferred embodiment of the present invention may be implemented; and

Figure 8 is a block diagram of the data processing system depicted in Figure 7 in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

The method proposed by MPEG for compression of digital audio is based on subband coding (SBC). A SBC scheme initially splits the incoming signal into multiple signals that correspond to various bandwidths that comprise the entire spectrum of the signal. Then the signals are quantized according to either a pre-specified or a dynamic bit-allocation scheme. The compression algorithms that attempt to preserve the original quality as much as possible usually employ a dynamic bit allocation scheme. In the MPEG audio scheme, the bit-allocation is based upon a perceptual model of the human ear. The perceptual model, commonly known as a psychoacoustic model, utilizes the spectral information content of the incoming signal and outputs a vector of values that correspond to the signal to mask ratios (SMR) in each subband. SMR values are then used for obtaining a bit-allocation table. MPEG recommends two different such models, Psychoacoustic Model 1 (PM1) and Psychoacoustic Model 2 (PM2). More information on MPEG and PM1 and PM2 may be found in ISO-IEC/JTC1 SC29/WG11, *Coding Of Moving Pictures And*

Associated Audio for Digital Storage Media At Up to About 1.5 Mbits/s -Part 3: Audio, DIS, 11172, April 1992.

With reference to Figure 1 a high level flowchart of a known process for encoding audio is depicted. This process may be implemented with MPEG standards or by other encoding schemes. Pulse code modulation (PCM) samples are processed utilizing spectral analysis, as illustrated in block 200, to provide data to compute a signal to mask ratio (SMR) for the sample, as depicted in block 202. The SMR value from block 202 and the desired bit-rate from block 204 are employed to determine bit allocation, as illustrated in block 206. Bit allocation is performed to allocate bits available for storage or transmission of PCM samples in a subband. The number of bits allocated depends on the SMR value computed in block 202. SMR values are used in conjunction with signal to Noise Ratios (SNR) resulting from quantization of the signal to allocate the number of bits needed for quantization in each subband. Generally, a high SMR results in more bits being allocated, while a low SMR causes less bits to be allocated for encoding. United States Patent No. 4,899,384 teaches table controlled bit allocation in a variable rate subband speech coder, and United States Patent No. 5,185,800 discloses a bit allocation device for transformed digital audio signals with adaptive quantization based on psychoauditive criterion..

PCM samples also are processed utilizing subband analysis, as illustrated in block 208. Subband analysis involves producing subbands for encoding. The subbands may be selected by the user or specified by an encoding standard, such as MPEG. The subbands may be produced from the PCM samples by filtering the PCM samples with cosine modulated filters to produce the desired subbands. Each filter is employed to separate a subband from the PCM samples. A number of different filters may be utilized to select the desired subbands from the PCM samples, depending on the subbands desired or specified. Examples of various filter designs may be found in H. S. Malvar, *Signal Processing With Lapped Transforms*, Artech House (1992); Ziemer et al, *Signals and Systems: Continuous and Discrete*, Macmillian Publishing Co., Appendix D (2d ed. 1989) and Horowitz and Hill, *The Art of Electronics*, Cambridge University Press (2d ed. 1989). United States Patent No. 4,899,384 teaches the use of a parallel filter bank to produce subbands. Filters may be implemented in hardware or in software in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

A scale factor is then determined and coded for each of the subbands separated from each of the PCM samples factor, as illustrated in block 210. For each "frame" of audio PCM samples, a prespecified number of subband samples per subband are obtained. For instance in Layer I, a frame consists of 384 PCM samples which results in $384/32 = 12$ subband samples per subband. In Layer II, these numbers are 1052 and 36 respectively. The absolute maximum of the 12 samples is taken as the scale factor. To prevent an infinite number of choices for the scale factor, only 64 values are used in Layer I and II. Hence the scale factor value that is higher and closest to this absolute maximum value is chosen and indicated to the decoder by an index. The decoder is assumed to know the value indexed. The scale factor requires bits for coding and is taken into account when bit allocation is performed in block 206.

Then quantizing and bit packing is performed, as depicted in block 212. Each subband value is divided by the scale factor value corresponding to the subband. Now the scaled subband samples are quantized by quantizers whose step sizes are determined by the SMA and SNR values. Then the bits resulting from the quantization process are packed to conform to the MPEG audio bit stream definitions in the case of MPEG or any other standard that is used. United States Patent No. 5,185,800 discloses a bit allocation device for transformed digital audio signals with adaptive quantization based on psychoauditive criterion. More information on quantizing and encoding also may be found in Ziemer et al, *Signals and Systems: Continuous and Discrete*, Macmillian Publishing Co. (2d ed. 1989).

The result is a compressed bit stream. This process may be implemented under MPEG or other encoding standards for compressing data. More details of the process illustrated in Figure 1 may be found in ISO-IEC/JTC1 SC29/WG11, *Coding Of Moving Pictures And Associated Audio for Digital Storage Media At Up to About 1.5 Mbits/s - Part 3: Audio*, DIS, 11172, April 1992.

In the MPEG audio standard, three different layers are involved. Layers I and II split the signal into 32 uniformly spaced subbands using a cosine modulated filter bank as specified in ISO-IEC/JTC1 SC29/WG11, *Coding Of Moving Pictures And Associated Audio for Digital Storage Media At Up to About 1.5 Mbits/s - Part 3: Audio*, DIS, 11172, April 1992. Layer III also uses 32 subbands in the initial stage but further splitting is performed within the subbands to obtain subband samples of finer frequency divisions. In Layer I, the 384 samples are grouped together in a frame and a new bit-allocation table is computed for each of these frames. Under MPEG standard, the psychoacoustic models use a 512-point discrete Fourier transform (DFT) to compute the spectrum. For the permitted samples rates of 32, 44.1 and 48 kHz, this translates into the requirement of performing bit-allocation computation for each 12, 8.7 and 8 milliseconds. For Layer II, 1152 (3x384) samples are grouped together in a frame and a 1024-point DFT is used for

spectral analysis. The computational requirement for computing the PM2 while Layer II is employed can be derived as 26,314 multiplies, 37,341 adds, 1024 compares, 1135 logarithms, 1201 table index operations, 859 divides, 768 square roots and 512 inverse tangents per 6 ms or approximately 170 times a second for a two-channel (stereo) audio. See ISO-IEC/JTC1 SC29/WG11, *Comments On Audio CD And Analysis Of*
 5 *Audio Complexity*, May 1991 for more information.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention provides a process for bit allocation that can be computationally 70 times more efficient than the PM2 for Layer II, and about 60 times more efficient than PM1 for Layer I. The present invention is well suited for use with standard digital processor architectures.

The present invention, in the preferred embodiment, predicts SMR values based on the energy in a
 10 subband rather than by spectral analysis as depicted in Figure 1. The subbands obtained from subband analysis are utilized to predict the SMR value utilized in bit allocation. Specifically, the subband energy is employed in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The prediction of the SMR value is accomplished by utilizing a matrix of prediction coefficients indexed by subbands. The prediction coefficients are found by utilizing actual psychoacoustic models, such as PM1 and PM2. Details of the
 15 methodology used in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention are presented in the following sections. Utilizing this approach, dynamic bit allocation schemes for any subband codes may be developed in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

A Simplified Modelling of SMR Computation

20 Detailed descriptions of the models PM1 and PM2 can be found in ISO-IEC/JTC1 SC29/WG11, *Coding Of Moving Pictures And Associated Audio for Digital Storage Media At Up to About 1.5 Mbits/s - Part 3: Audio*, DIS, 11172, April 1992. These models involve lengthy processes for computation of the SMR. For instance, in PM1, first the DFT is performed to obtain the power density spectrum of the signal. From the
 25 power spectrum, tonal and non-tonal components of the signal are computed since it is well known that these components have different masking characteristics. These masking characteristics can cross the boundaries (or cut-off frequencies) of the subbands. The global masking thresholds at various frequency points are then computed. Minima of these values within each subband represent the SMR. PM2 requires more complex operations using both magnitude and phase of the DFT and is detailed in ISO-IEC/JTC1
 30 SC29/WG11, *Coding Of Moving Pictures And Associated Audio for Digital Storage Media At Up to About 1.5 Mbits/s - Part 3: Audio*, DIS, 11172, April 1992.

The subband samples represent the temporal information within their respective bandwidths. Assuming that each subband provides perfect bandpass characteristics, the summation of the square of each subband value within a subband reflects the energy in that frequency band by the application of Parseval's Theorem
 35 as described in A.V. Oppenheim and R.W. Schaffer, *Digital Processing of Signals*, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1979. The analysis filter bank that provides subband decomposition has been designed using a prototype filter that provides more than 96 dB attenuation in the stop band. See K. Brandenburg and G. Stoll, "The ISO/MPEG-Audio codec: A generic standard for coding of high quality digital audio," *Proc. of the 92nd Convention of the Audio Engineering Society*, Vienna, March 1992 for more information.

40 Hence, for all practical purposes, a perfect bandpass characteristics assumption is valid. Since it is evident from the computational procedure for the SMR that the energy values within each subband ultimately contributes to the SMR value within that subband and the neighbouring subbands, it is fair to model a relationship between the energies within each subband and the SMR values. If the model is known, computation of the frequency spectrum and the related operations will be avoided since energies will be
 45 computed in the subband domains. A preferred embodiment of the present invention employs linear modelling.

The problem of finding a linear model translates simply into estimating a matrix of dimension 32 by 33 to map the energy values into an array of SMR values. The initial step, of course, is to obtain data for modelling. Once the data is obtained, finding the best model that fits the data is the next step in the
 50 process. First, the mechanism for collecting the data will be examined. Next, the appropriate input and output data sets will be selected. Then, the linear hypothesis will be tested to support the arguments for a linear model. Finally, actual estimation of the matrix will be conducted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

55 Data Collection and Hypothesis Testing

The data collection procedure requires that a good psychoacoustic model be used to obtain sample SMR values. Software has been used to obtain SMR values via the two psychoacoustic models described

in ISO-IEC/JTC1 SC29/WG11, *Coding of Moving Pictures And Associated Audio for Digital Storage Media At Up to About 1.5 Mbits/s - Part 3: Audio*, DIS, 11172, April 1992. PM1 and PM2 both have been used in experiments. To obtain a set of data for the estimation problem, a variety of music and speech signals are needed. A multitude of audio samples from classical and popular music, and some speech signals varying between 20 and 30 seconds of duration was captured in monoaural mode at 44.1 kHz sampling rate with 16 bit resolution per sample using the IBM Audio Capture and Playback Adapter (ACPA).

A similar approach may be taken to capture data at 32 and 48 kHz samples techniques as well. If the samples are available digitally, there will be no need for using an audio capturing hardware. A table of time domain energy values in each subband and the corresponding SMR values from an established psychoacoustic model for several frames of audio may be produced using the simulation programs. If the data from all of the different musical samples were to be collected, one would end up with a prohibitively large data set. To circumvent this problem, a sampling technique was employed. A pseudo-random number generator with uniform distribution characteristics was utilized for sampling purposes. Let the random number that lies between 0 and $2^{15} - 1$ be denoted by w_i . Then

$$P((w_i \bmod 100) > x) = (100-x)/100$$

for integer x , $0 \leq x \leq 100$, where mod indicates the modulo operation and $P(\cdot)$ denotes the probability measure. Using the above, SMR and corresponding energy values were obtained for each frame, randomly, which resulted in capturing $(100 - x)$ percent of the frames.

Data corresponding to Layer I and Layer II were obtained using PM1 and also PM2. For the energy computations, the absolute values of the subband samples were considered instead of the square of the samples in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. This was done to minimize the computational or cycle requirements in programmable DSPs. The absolute values of the subband samples are referred to herein as "pseudo-energy" values. While a modelling for Layer 1, in each frame for each subband 12 absolute values of the samples were summed together to obtain the energy value in that subband. While using Layer II, 36 absolute values were summed to obtain the pseudo-energy values.

One difficulty is that these energy values are usually small which can in turn result in large values for the linear parameters that are to be determined. This may require dealing with a large dynamic range of numbers which may not be preferable in implementations using fixed-point DSPs. For this reason, modified values were utilized by taking the natural logarithm of this energy. This is also appropriate considering the fact that SMR values are given in dB. In parallel with the pseudo-energy value calculations, SMR values were computed using either PM1 or PM2 and gathered. Let $y_k(j)$ denote the SMR value for the subband k at the sample frame j and let $x_k(j)$ be the corresponding subband pseudo-energy value.

$\beta_{k,i}$, $k = 1, 2, \dots, 32$ and $i = 1, 2, \dots, 33$ is estimated using N data points such that:

$$y_k(j) = \sum_{i=1}^{33} \beta_{k,i} x_i(j) + e_k(j), \quad j=1, 2, \dots, N$$

equation (1)

where $x_{33}(j) = 1$ for all $j = 1, 2, \dots, N$ and $e_k(j)$ represent the modelling error for subband k at frame j . $\beta_{k,33}$ ($k = 1, 2, \dots, 32$) represent bias values, and $\beta_{k,i}$ represents prediction coefficients in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. In the depicted example, a "frame" contains a number of adjacent audio samples. The aim is to obtain an estimate of $\beta_{k,i}$ such that the errors are small for the given data. Note that the number of parameters to be estimated are 32×33 . The additional 32 parameters come from the requirement to estimate a bias vector that correspond to $x_{33}(\cdot)$.

Referring now to Figure 2, a process for determining prediction coefficients is illustrated in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. A SMR values are determined for a random audio sample utilizing a psychoacoustic model, such as PM1 or PM2, as depicted in block 300. Thereafter energy values for the subbands in the sample are determined, as illustrated in block 302. Then a prediction coefficient is determined for each subband and data point, as depicted in block 304. The prediction coefficients are $\beta_{k,i}$ as shown in equation (1). Then, a determination of whether more samples are present is made, as illustrated in block 306. If no more samples are present, the process terminates. Otherwise, the process returns to block 300 to process another audio sample in accordance with a preferred embodiment

of the present invention.

The hypothesis that the linear mapping equation (1) is significant can easily be checked under certain assumptions, namely, the errors $\epsilon_k(j)$ are independent and normally distributed. Details of hypothesis testing can be found in a standard statistics text such as J. Neter, W. Wasserman, M.H. Kutner, *Applied Linear Statistical Models*, Homewood, IL: Richard Irwin Inc., 1985. For instance, for subband k one can formulate the null and the alternate hypotheses as:

$$H_0 : \beta_{k,1} = \beta_{k,2} = \dots = \beta_{k,32} = 0$$

$$H_1 : \beta_{k,i} \neq 0 \text{ for at least one } i$$

10

Rejection of H_0 implies that at least one variable in the model contributes significantly. The computation of the test statistic first involves the calculation of an estimate of

15

$$b_k = [\beta_{k,0}, \beta_{k,1}, \dots, \beta_{k,32}]^T, \hat{b}_k$$

Let $y_k = [y_k(1), y_k(2), \dots, y_k(N)]^T$ and X be an N by 33 matrix such that each row of X contains $x_i(j)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, 33$. Similarly, e_k denotes the error vector. Then equation (1) is written as

20

$$y_k = Xb_k + e_k$$

and it is well known that the least square estimate of b_k is given by

25

$$\hat{b}_k = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y_k$$

equation (2)

30

where the superscript T denotes matrix transposition. Note that under the normality assumption for error e_k , the estimate given by equation (2) is also the maximum likelihood estimate (MLE) of b_k .

Let C be a 32 by 33 matrix such that $C = [I \ 0]$ where I is the 32 by 32 identity matrix and 0 is a 32 dimensional column vector with all zero elements. Then, the test statistic F_0 is then computed as:

35

$$F_0 = \frac{\hat{b}_k^T [C(X^T X)^{-1} C^T]^{-1} \frac{C \hat{b}_k}{32}}{\hat{b}_k^T \hat{b}_k / (N-33)}$$

40

equation (3)

45 where

$$\hat{e}_k^T = y_k - X \hat{b}_k$$

50

the vector of residuals. H_0 if $F_0 > F_{\alpha, 32, N-33}$, values of which are found in the variance ratio distribution tables (or F tables) in standard statistical references such as J. Neter, W. Wasserman, M.H. Kutner, *Applied Linear Statistical Models*, Homewood, IL: Richard Irwin Inc., 1985. Some typical values of the test statistic F_0 encountered are tabulated in Table 1 for a case where data using Layer 1, PM1 with $N = 390$ was gathered.

55

Table 1

Variance Ratio Table for Hypothesis Testing		
Subband	F ₀	F _{α,32,N-33}
1	7.66	1.9
7	22.34	1.9
11	55.68	1.9
19	134.06	1.9
24	217.36	1.9
31	159.79	1.9

The results in Table 1 are typical for all the data that was gathered; Layer II, Layer I with various combinations of PM1 and PM2. Thus, it is very clear that the null hypothesis should be rejected and estimation should proceed.

Estimation

It is known that equation (2) provides the Best Linear Unbiased Estimate of b_k under the normality assumptions. However, due to outliers - the data points at which the errors are considerably larger, and the lack of knowledge about the distribution of the errors, different type of estimators may have to be utilized. A typical result of using least squares estimate of b_k by plotting the errors for sample frames is illustrated in Figure 3. In view of Figure 3, it is indeed clear that elimination of certain points can very well contribute to better estimation of b_k . A technique known as *robust estimation* has been deemed as an appropriate alternative to least squares technique in the presence of outliers.

Many robust estimation techniques have been proposed in the literature. Two available techniques were employed. One of the methods is by Boncelet and Dickinson in C.G. Boncelet and B.W. Dickinson, "A variant of Huber robust estimation," *SIAM, Journal on Scientific and Statistical Computing*, vol. 5, no. 3, pp. 720-734, 1984 which is a variant of Huber's method described in P. Huber, "Robust statistics: A review," *Annals of Mathematical Statistics*, vol. 43, pp. 1042-1067, 1972. The estimates can be obtained by minimizing

$$\sum_{j=1}^N \rho(y_k(j) - \sum_{i=1}^{33} \beta_{k,i} x_i(j))$$

equation (4)

where

$$\rho(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda x - \frac{\lambda^2}{2}, & x \geq \lambda \\ \frac{x^2}{2}, & -\lambda \leq x \leq \lambda \\ -\lambda x - \frac{\lambda^2}{2}, & x \leq -\lambda \end{cases}$$

with respect to $\beta_{k,i}$. Usually the value of λ is not known beforehand and using fixed values for λ considerably reduces the computational burden. Another alternative is to specify the percentage of outliers

(say α) permitted for the design. The scheme proposed by Boncelet and Dickinson C.G. Boncelet and B.W. Dickinson, "A variant of Huber robust estimation," *SIAM, Journal on Scientific and Statistical Computing*, vol. 5, no. 3, pp. 720-734, 1984 can be used for either case, using the percentage of the outliers or using a fixed value for λ . Fixing λ requires a *priori* knowledge about the data. The following are properties of the

5 SMR values that can be used towards selecting appropriate λ values:

- (1) The SMR values include the absolute threshold values in each subband. Absolute threshold values are the values that correspond to minimum sound energy levels that are needed for being audible;
- (2) These values are larger in the high frequency range (13-20 kHz) and smaller in the lower middle frequency (2-5 kHz) since the ear is most sensitive in this frequency range. Very low frequencies (0-300
- 10 Hz) also have large absolute threshold. (For a listing of absolute threshold values for various frequencies, see ISO-IEC/JTC1 SC29/WG11, *Coding of Moving Pictures And Associated Audio for Digital Storage Media At Up to About 1.5 Mbits/s - Part 3: Audio*, DIS, 11172, April 1992);
- (3) The SMR values (given in dBs) directly relate to the number of bits to be allocated within each subband. For each bit allocated, the signal to noise ratio (SNR) reduces by approximately 6 dB; and
- 15 (4) Typical profile of the SMR values plotted against the subband numbers is depicted in Figure 4. This figure shows that the SMR values generally decrease as the frequency increases.

In view of the properties listed above, it is important to predict the SMR values as accurately as possible in the low to lower high frequencies (2-13 kHz). One may choose low (< 3 dB) values for λ and low values for α . Although the ear sensitivity is not great in the very low frequencies, the SMR values are

20 usually high. Hence, λ is kept around 6 dB for the first three subbands (up to about 2 kHz). Alternatively, α could be selected to be around 5%. For subbands above 20, the SMR values are larger in general and the ear is less sensitive. This in turn permits the use larger λ values. Typically, values up to about 10 were employed. However, the percentage of outliers, α need not be increased to higher levels if the scheme is to be run by specifying α in the very low frequency range.

25 One may suspect that there could be noticeable differences in the characteristics of the data generated under different conditions for a particular layer, viz the differences resulting from the use of PM1 and PM2. Experience suggests that this is indeed the case for certain types of music. However, the general remarks on the selection of λ still hold.

Estimations using Huber's technique with modifications suggested by Holland and Welsh in P.W. Holland and R.E. Welsch, "Robust regression using iteratively reweighted least squares," *Comm. Statist.*, vol. A6, pp. 813-827, 1977 were performed. The procedure is based on an iterated least squares technique that starts with an initial estimate of the regression parameter vector, which is usually obtained by at least absolute residual estimation. An implementation of this scheme is available in AGSS (A Graphical Statistical System), which is a product available from International Business Machines. One advantage of this method

30 is that automatic computation of λ . Here $\lambda = 1.345 \sigma^{\wedge}$, where σ^{\wedge} is the estimated variance of the residuals. The technical details of this robust estimation procedure can be found in P.W. Holland and R.E. Welsch, "Robust regression using iteratively reweighted least squares," *Comm. Statist.*, vol. A6, pp. 813-827, 1977.

The appropriate selection of $\hat{\delta}_k$ from the above estimations is based on two tests, a subjective and an

40 objective one in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The music quality is subjectively evaluated against both the original and compressed/decompressed music pieces that were obtained by using either PM1 or PM2. For the objective measurements, the bit-allocation deviations from a corresponding MPEG implementation using either PM1 or PM2 are employed. The deviations are computed for sampled frames and the average deviation per frame is taken as an indication of the amount of

45 digression from an implementation that uses the recommended psychoacoustic models.

Pulse code modulation (PCM) samples with 16-bit resolution of several different types of music that include rock and roll, classical violin, speech, piano, symphony orchestra, country and western and folk music were gathered. 1400 frames of information were obtained for Layer II and Layer I with PM1 and PM2 respectively. The pseudo-energy value for the i th frame and the j th subband was computed by adding the

50 absolute values of the subband samples (36 in Layer II and 12 in Layer I) in the frame. The natural logarithm of that value is taken as $x_i(j)$. Two different estimations were performed; one using the technique of Boncelet and Dickinson, and the other using the AGSS package. If subjective evaluations suggested that the AGSS estimation be chosen, that would ultimately be decided as the proper value for $\hat{\delta}_k$. Another important point is that at certain subbands, the prediction using a straightforward linear least squares proved

55 to be better and, hence, it was decided to use the linear least square method for that. The coefficients given in the following section contain regression parameters that are a mixture from these three methods.

Table 2 provides a comparison between PM2 and a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

TABLE 2

Subband No.	No. Bits PM2	No. Bits Proposed	Deviation Average bits/frame
1	23161	23035	0.242090
2	16361	16970	0.136139
3	13483	13782	0.123077
4	13853	13659	0.211030
5	12425	12550	0.149492
6	13240	13000	0.197097
7	12078	11998	0.169811
8	11769	11503	0.195356
9	11132	10725	0.161393
10	10755	10521	0.109434
11	10558	10451	0.079245
12	9999	10193	0.057765
13	9053	9198	0.109724
14	7168	7159	0.102467
15	5866	6076	0.123948
16	4110	4193	0.137881
17	1740	1559	0.182003
18	54	43	0.028157

No bits allocated for subbands 19-32 in both cases. Column 2 gives the subband number and Column 2 gives the number of bits allocated for the entire test sequence when Layer I with PM2 was applied. Column 3 gives the corresponding number of bits allocated for the proposed method with Layer I implementation. Finally, the measurement of the fidelity of the method when compared to PM2 is given in Column 4 by considering the average deviations in the allocated number of bits between PM2 and the proposed scheme. By looking at the number of subbands that were actually coded, the scheme also preserved the frequency content of the incoming data as well in comparison to PM2. The resulting bit streams from the present invention when compared to the corresponding originals were virtually indistinguishable by many listeners.

Referring next to Figure 5, a high level flowchart of a process for compressing PCM samples is depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Subband analysis is performed on the PCM samples to produce the desired subbands for each samples. Each subband may be produced by filtering the sample utilizing known filtering systems in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Thereafter, SMR is predicted for a subband utilizing a model of relationships between energy values within each of the subbands and utilizing SMR values based on a predetermined psychoacoustic model, as illustrated in block 402.

Next, the predicted SMR is employed to determine a bit allocation for the sample, as depicted in block 404. A desired bit-rate also is considered in bit allocation, as illustrated in block 406. Scale factor coding is performed for each of the subbands in a PCM sample, as depicted in block 408. Quantization and bit packing is performed, as illustrated in block 410, utilizing the bit-allocation and scale factor from blocks 404 and 408. In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the need for spectral analysis of PCM samples being compressed is eliminated.

Referring now to Figure 6, a flowchart of a process for predicting SMR values in block 402 of Figure 5 is illustrated in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. For a particular frame the process computes the maximally decimated subband samples $s_{i,l}$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, 32$ and $l = 1, 2, \dots, L$, as depicted in block 500, where i denotes the subband number, as depicted in block in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. L is 12 for Layer I and 36 for Layer II under MPEG

standards.

Next, the process computes pseudo-energy values

$$x_i = \ln \left(\sum_{l=1}^L |S_{i,l}| \right) \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, 32$$

equation (5)

as illustrated in block 502. Thereafter, The SMR values are predicted, as illustrated in block 504:

$$y_i = \sum_{j=1}^{32} \beta_{i,j} x_j + \beta_{i,33}$$

equation (6)

where the $\beta_{i,j}$ values for Layers I and II are given in Table 3 and Table 4 respectively in the appendix for a 44.1 kHz input signal. The following pages disclose Table 3 and Table 4.

TABLE 3

Prediction Coefficients for Layer I: 44.1 kHz Audio

Coefficient	Subband $i = 1$	Subband $i = 2$	Subband $i = 3$	Subband $i = 4$	Subband $i = 5$	Subband $i = 6$
$\beta_{1,1}$	1.4402	-2.1590	-0.3714	-0.1201	-0.1248	0.0247
$\beta_{1,2}$	0.0079	2.5482	-0.5392	0.0642	0.0968	-0.1311
$\beta_{1,3}$	-0.4029	-0.0546	2.2706	-0.8904	-0.2350	0.0845
$\beta_{1,4}$	-0.0931	-0.3487	-1.1577	2.3857	-1.0164	-0.2894
$\beta_{1,5}$	0.7042	0.1272	0.3870	-0.9340	3.1973	-0.5607
$\beta_{1,6}$	-0.4697	0.1951	0.0789	0.0782	-1.3077	2.8403
$\beta_{1,7}$	-0.1494	-0.3954	-0.1309	0.1125	0.1001	-1.2489
$\beta_{1,8}$	0.0830	-0.0573	-0.0546	-0.1734	-0.3409	-0.0021
$\beta_{1,9}$	0.1018	0.0010	0.0551	-0.1679	0.2942	-0.1181
$\beta_{1,10}$	0.1451	0.2079	-0.1036	0.3687	-0.4838	-0.1605
$\beta_{1,11}$	-0.1750	-0.1449	-0.0302	-0.4955	-0.2869	-0.1137
$\beta_{1,12}$	0.3343	0.1909	0.0280	0.2934	0.4110	0.2922
$\beta_{1,13}$	0.0504	0.3325	0.0372	0.1101	-0.1305	0.0001
$\beta_{1,14}$	-0.0752	0.4141	0.0833	-0.2733	0.3259	-0.0650
$\beta_{1,15}$	-0.0677	0.1239	0.2914	0.0569	-0.4656	-0.2353
$\beta_{1,16}$	-0.2566	-0.1025	-0.4918	-0.3814	0.1918	-0.0846
$\beta_{1,17}$	0.2621	-0.0394	0.2767	0.3012	-0.1217	-0.0067
$\beta_{1,18}$	-0.0996	-0.2749	-0.3724	0.1307	0.1145	0.3957
$\beta_{1,19}$	0.0478	-0.3420	-0.0790	-0.5125	0.0655	-0.2317
$\beta_{1,20}$	-0.7799	-0.1030	-0.4152	0.0816	0.3425	-0.0200
$\beta_{1,21}$	0.4170	0.4592	0.5045	0.2857	-0.0034	0.1357
$\beta_{1,22}$	-0.0631	-0.3806	-0.0075	-0.0607	-0.1935	-0.0840
$\beta_{1,23}$	-0.5200	0.5564	-0.2310	-0.3325	-0.1216	0.0198
$\beta_{1,24}$	0.4502	-0.4233	-0.1495	0.1735	-0.1641	-0.3094
$\beta_{1,25}$	-0.6128	0.5906	0.0812	0.0431	-0.3598	0.2504
$\beta_{1,26}$	0.7079	-0.2102	-0.0265	-0.2588	0.2794	0.0157
$\beta_{1,27}$	0.0998	-0.0353	0.0447	0.2808	0.0366	0.0044
$\beta_{1,28}$	0.0350	0.0716	0.1670	-0.2473	0.2600	-0.1089
$\beta_{1,29}$	0.8125	-0.0453	0.0857	0.4027	-0.3471	-0.3292
$\beta_{1,30}$	-0.4829	-0.4381	-0.3011	0.0477	0.1541	0.0753
$\beta_{1,31}$	-0.6959	-0.1495	-0.2256	-0.2769	0.2175	-0.2248
$\beta_{1,32}$	-0.3923	-0.1221	0.2634	-0.0693	-0.3645	0.2874

TABLE 3 (continued)
 Prediction Coefficients for Layer I: 44.1 kHz Audio

Coefficient	Subband $i = 7$	Subband $i = 8$	Subband $i = 9$	Subband $i = 10$	Subband $i = 11$	Subband $i = 12$
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						
26						
27						
28						
29						
30						
31						
32						

35

40

45

50

55

TABLE 3 (continued)

Prediction Coefficients for Layer I: 44.1 kHz Audio

Coefficient	Subband $i = 13$	Subband $i = 14$	Subband $i = 15$	Subband $i = 16$	Subband $i = 17$	Subband $i = 18$
$b_{1,1}$	1.6427	2.2345	2.7743	3.0673	3.3106	3.4211
$b_{1,2}$	0.9331	0.0862	0.9315	0.8681	0.8190	0.9363
$b_{1,3}$	-0.4010	-0.2814	-0.3328	-0.2191	-0.2201	-0.4104
$b_{1,4}$	0.4397	0.3848	0.3181	0.1319	0.2095	0.1741
$b_{1,5}$	-0.3925	-0.2007	-0.5222	-0.3876	-0.4155	-0.4155
$b_{1,6}$	0.5534	0.2752	0.1196	-0.0569	-0.1198	0.0055
$b_{1,7}$	-0.3332	-0.5189	-0.2118	-0.1143	-0.3111	-0.0911
$b_{1,8}$	0.1933	0.3575	0.3965	0.4703	0.6854	0.5060
$b_{1,9}$	-0.2924	-0.1487	0.2614	0.3972	0.4630	0.4609
$b_{1,10}$	0.3242	-0.1519	-0.3219	-0.4567	-0.5197	-0.6080
$b_{1,11}$	0.2163	0.4296	0.2239	0.2382	0.0432	0.1408
$b_{1,12}$	0.6106	0.8888	0.6543	0.0569	0.0488	-0.3417
$b_{1,13}$	3.5997	-0.2264	-0.4051	-0.0200	-0.0128	-0.1672
$b_{1,14}$	0.0111	4.1680	0.2448	0.0445	-0.0787	0.1265
$b_{1,15}$	-0.5254	-0.2417	3.7860	-0.0395	0.0171	0.1667
$b_{1,16}$	-0.0998	-0.2652	0.0183	3.9253	0.7802	0.1237
$b_{1,17}$	0.7032	0.3878	0.4313	0.9662	4.3259	1.1715
$b_{1,18}$	-0.2175	-0.4849	-0.4111	-0.1676	0.1651	3.4882
$b_{1,19}$	-0.0103	0.3853	0.1210	0.2387	0.0496	0.2679
$b_{1,20}$	0.2718	0.5935	0.5518	0.1825	0.1256	0.2563
$b_{1,21}$	-0.3931	-0.8651	-0.1774	-0.2891	-0.0182	-0.1696
$b_{1,22}$	0.2303	0.5518	0.3402	0.4406	0.2034	0.5667
$b_{1,23}$	0.0726	0.2030	-0.1205	0.2049	0.3942	0.5181
$b_{1,24}$	-0.1388	0.1089	0.0825	-0.2341	-0.6947	-0.8749
$b_{1,25}$	0.4155	0.2557	0.2347	-0.0821	0.0523	0.0668
$b_{1,26}$	0.1257	-0.0161	0.3702	0.4175	0.5463	0.4733
$b_{1,27}$	0.3318	0.3625	0.3448	0.0568	0.0961	0.1771
$b_{1,28}$	-0.6866	-0.4377	-0.3466	0.1122	0.0537	0.1370
$b_{1,29}$	-1.3947	-2.0386	-1.7201	-1.4993	-1.4679	-0.6975
$b_{1,30}$	-1.2268	-0.6072	-0.6733	-0.7032	-0.5449	-0.1244
$b_{1,31}$	-0.5522	-0.8195	-0.9923	-1.3840	-1.0802	-1.1340
$b_{1,32}$	-1.1676	-1.6180	-1.8337	-1.5214	-1.6579	-1.2908

TABLE 3 (continued)

Prediction Coefficients for Layer I: 44.1 kHz Audio

Coefficient	Subband $i = 19$	Subband $i = 20$	Subband $i = 21$	Subband $i = 22$	Subband $i = 23$	Subband $i = 24$
0.1.1	3.8451	3.8163	3.9186	3.8504	3.5291	4.0654
0.1.2	0.8317	0.9226	0.9234	0.8584	0.8317	0.8953
0.1.3	-0.3182	-0.2451	-0.1646	0.0058	-0.2558	-0.1303
0.1.4	0.1111	0.1024	0.0530	0.0871	0.2980	0.2800
0.1.5	-0.3147	-0.2223	-0.4677	-0.4332	-0.2547	-0.3451
0.1.6	0.0527	-0.2141	-0.0293	-0.1233	-0.1622	-0.1537
0.1.7	-0.1125	0.0217	0.0491	0.1067	0.2222	0.1841
0.1.8	0.3332	0.1561	0.0713	0.0184	0.2422	0.1595
0.1.9	0.5389	0.8049	0.7997	0.9188	0.5395	0.6928
0.1.10	-0.3789	-0.4194	-0.4809	-0.6953	-0.6156	-0.5852
0.1.11	0.1424	0.1551	0.1208	0.0717	-0.0813	0.0556
0.1.12	-0.1196	-0.3050	-0.0549	0.2779	0.0647	0.0694
0.1.13	-0.2901	-0.1739	-0.2967	-0.2739	-0.1546	-0.1406
0.1.14	-0.0947	-0.1738	-0.0572	0.2194	0.1336	0.1293
0.1.15	0.1604	0.0681	0.1379	-0.0017	0.2006	0.3046
0.1.16	0.1748	0.2071	0.0663	0.1915	0.2225	0.0171
0.1.17	1.1738	0.7260	0.6736	0.6287	0.3458	0.7125
0.1.18	0.2622	0.3160	-0.0351	-0.0503	0.0696	-0.1269
0.1.19	2.9223	0.4731	0.1690	-0.3473	-0.2440	-0.4857
0.1.20	0.4823	3.0266	0.2751	0.2137	-0.1403	-0.0719
0.1.21	-0.0785	0.1403	3.0261	0.1010	0.2123	-0.3017
0.1.22	0.2517	0.3661	0.7376	3.0032	0.6174	0.6540
0.1.23	0.4532	0.7925	0.6817	0.8399	4.0332	0.8672
0.1.24	-0.9028	-0.4446	-0.4855	-0.1822	-0.4023	2.0690
0.1.25	-0.0076	-0.2614	-0.2075	-0.0614	-0.2193	0.0973
0.1.26	0.5996	0.5954	0.7975	0.9997	0.9242	1.0803
0.1.27	0.2645	0.1342	0.1839	-0.0645	0.1276	0.0558
0.1.28	0.1742	-0.0840	0.0450	0.2803	0.3780	0.4196
0.1.29	-1.5689	-1.9058	-1.8861	-1.6272	-1.1342	-1.6433
0.1.30	0.1720	0.4200	0.4114	0.3630	0.2925	0.3157
0.1.31	-0.8155	-0.6029	-0.4246	-0.0525	0.0912	-0.1232
0.1.32	-1.1990	-0.6412	-0.1916	0.2522	0.2805	0.7629

TABLE 3 (continued)

Prediction Coefficients for Layer I: 44.1 kHz Audio

Coefficient	Subband $i = 25$	Subband $i = 26$	Subband $i = 27$	Subband $i = 28$	Subband $i = 29$	Subband $i = 30$
$\beta_{1,1}$	4.3079	4.5598	4.8805	4.8804	5.0826	5.2083
$\beta_{1,2}$	1.0467	1.0263	1.0357	1.0434	1.0021	1.0216
$\beta_{1,3}$	-0.1249	-0.0667	-0.0396	0.0147	0.0859	0.0520
$\beta_{1,4}$	0.1213	0.1202	0.1275	0.2093	0.3157	0.3937
$\beta_{1,5}$	-0.4503	-0.3550	-0.3858	-0.4107	-0.5739	-0.6168
$\beta_{1,6}$	0.0271	-0.0544	-0.0255	-0.1296	-0.1168	-0.1294
$\beta_{1,7}$	0.3418	0.4467	0.4356	0.4538	0.5110	0.6005
$\beta_{1,8}$	0.0210	-0.0872	-0.0153	-0.0544	-0.2224	-0.1881
$\beta_{1,9}$	0.5640	0.6808	0.6860	0.6977	0.8163	0.9754
$\beta_{1,10}$	-0.6983	-0.7488	-1.0000	-0.9273	-0.8570	-1.0441
$\beta_{1,11}$	0.2370	0.3835	0.6244	0.7149	0.7696	0.7568
$\beta_{1,12}$	0.2139	0.1608	0.4249	0.3298	0.4766	0.5485
$\beta_{1,13}$	-0.1163	-0.2158	-0.3345	-0.3548	-0.4836	-0.6545
$\beta_{1,14}$	0.1378	-0.0476	-0.0107	-0.0169	-0.0154	0.0186
$\beta_{1,15}$	0.1128	0.2093	0.2430	0.2438	0.3546	0.4421
$\beta_{1,16}$	0.0222	0.0533	-0.1263	0.0284	0.0692	0.0040
$\beta_{1,17}$	0.8308	0.8386	0.8084	0.7499	0.7220	0.6629
$\beta_{1,18}$	-0.1457	-0.3400	-0.3005	-0.2467	-0.4024	-0.3496
$\beta_{1,19}$	-0.4155	-0.2518	-0.1921	-0.1422	-0.1138	-0.2497
$\beta_{1,20}$	-0.1452	-0.0899	-0.2509	-0.1384	-0.2656	-0.1466
$\beta_{1,21}$	-0.3965	-0.4477	-0.5137	-0.6676	-0.5856	-0.5809
$\beta_{1,22}$	0.5647	0.4364	0.6666	0.5522	0.4106	0.6044
$\beta_{1,23}$	0.8640	0.8861	0.7571	0.7241	0.5965	0.6740
$\beta_{1,24}$	-0.2930	-0.5127	-0.6569	-0.7791	-0.9091	-0.9204
$\beta_{1,25}$	1.9127	0.0278	-0.3120	-0.4418	-0.3748	-0.6183
$\beta_{1,26}$	1.2168	2.8719	0.7716	0.7201	0.8387	0.8216
$\beta_{1,27}$	-0.1742	-0.1571	1.6211	-0.0292	-0.4286	-0.4601
$\beta_{1,28}$	0.7224	0.5655	0.8643	2.2273	0.6998	0.5978
$\beta_{1,29}$	-1.2241	-1.1736	-1.1706	-1.0487	0.6257	-0.6827
$\beta_{1,30}$	0.5833	1.1505	1.0181	1.1363	1.4494	2.4980
$\beta_{1,31}$	-0.1160	-0.1216	0.1950	0.3723	0.5335	0.5793
$\beta_{1,32}$	0.4159	0.3040	0.4053	0.4981	0.2801	0.5592

TABLE 3 (continued)

Prediction Coefficients for Layer I: 44.1 kHz Audio

Coefficient	Subband $i = 31$	Subband $i = 32$	Constant Term $\beta_{k,31}, k = 1, 2, \dots, 32$
$\beta_{1,1}$	5.3684	5.3391	21.5640
$\beta_{1,2}$	0.9453	0.9680	13.9750
$\beta_{1,3}$	0.1195	0.1816	7.6866
$\beta_{1,4}$	0.3259	0.3250	6.8826
$\beta_{1,5}$	-0.5176	-0.5910	6.3966
$\beta_{1,6}$	-0.0184	-0.0030	6.1641
$\beta_{1,7}$	0.5802	0.5005	5.2070
$\beta_{1,8}$	-0.1784	-0.1642	4.2241
$\beta_{1,9}$	0.9576	1.0003	2.7574
$\beta_{1,10}$	-1.1590	-0.9857	2.3890
$\beta_{1,11}$	0.7757	0.6357	1.2362
$\beta_{1,12}$	0.4857	0.4902	1.3702
$\beta_{1,13}$	-0.6296	-0.5374	1.2366
$\beta_{1,14}$	0.0667	-0.0291	0.3416
$\beta_{1,15}$	0.4718	0.4429	1.2971
$\beta_{1,16}$	0.1038	0.0295	1.0463
$\beta_{1,17}$	0.6533	0.6607	1.5848
$\beta_{1,18}$	-0.3497	-0.2793	2.6275
$\beta_{1,19}$	-0.3322	-0.2662	3.1779
$\beta_{1,20}$	-0.2097	-0.2693	3.9467
$\beta_{1,21}$	-0.6423	-0.4982	3.9231
$\beta_{1,22}$	0.5316	0.3872	4.6391
$\beta_{1,23}$	0.7056	0.7800	-1.7057
$\beta_{1,24}$	-0.7183	-0.7389	-10.0903
$\beta_{1,25}$	-0.3562	-0.3527	-10.2050
$\beta_{1,26}$	0.4432	0.5482	-11.1570
$\beta_{1,27}$	-0.3881	-0.5485	-11.6970
$\beta_{1,28}$	0.6956	0.6386	-12.2220
$\beta_{1,29}$	-0.7530	-0.7639	-27.5050
$\beta_{1,30}$	1.1031	1.1932	-40.0740
$\beta_{1,31}$	1.7983	0.6223	-40.4300
$\beta_{1,32}$	0.5897	1.7744	-40.2560

TABLE 4

Prediction Coefficients for Layer II: 44.1 kHz Audio

Coefficient	Subband $i = 1$	Subband $i = 2$	Subband $i = 3$	Subband $i = 4$	Subband $i = 5$	Subband $i = 6$
$\beta_{1,1}$	2.5329	-0.3939	-0.0520	-0.0246	-0.2559	0.5237
$\beta_{1,2}$	0.3435	2.8841	-0.3113	-0.2361	-0.0807	-0.0068
$\beta_{1,3}$	-0.0070	-0.7536	2.2972	-0.2517	-0.2962	-0.3941
$\beta_{1,4}$	0.1946	0.1713	-0.1317	2.4747	-0.5923	-0.2818
$\beta_{1,5}$	-0.1394	0.1576	0.5933	0.5318	3.2455	-0.2436
$\beta_{1,6}$	0.6764	-0.1985	0.1866	0.4997	-0.2623	3.2766
$\beta_{1,7}$	-0.5469	0.3602	-0.4321	-0.1235	0.3401	-0.7476
$\beta_{1,8}$	-0.7019	-0.4780	-0.2438	-0.0600	-0.8279	0.0312
$\beta_{1,9}$	0.0765	0.0310	0.0626	0.2939	0.4158	0.0443
$\beta_{1,10}$	-0.3388	-0.3723	0.0461	0.2410	0.1553	-0.2841
$\beta_{1,11}$	-0.2491	0.0758	-0.0377	-0.6650	-0.3148	-0.2874
$\beta_{1,12}$	0.2038	0.0734	0.2375	-0.2211	-0.2311	-0.0817
$\beta_{1,13}$	-0.2102	0.3434	0.0262	-0.0458	1.0099	-0.0662
$\beta_{1,14}$	1.5422	0.3384	0.3382	-0.1577	-0.1805	-0.2833
$\beta_{1,15}$	-1.0587	-0.7274	-0.1300	-0.2552	-0.7809	0.2848
$\beta_{1,16}$	-0.2100	0.1390	-0.5580	0.4003	-0.2479	0.4259
$\beta_{1,17}$	-0.3920	-0.0701	-0.1087	-0.1831	-0.1681	-0.3417
$\beta_{1,18}$	-0.9268	-0.3241	0.6587	-0.0182	-0.6896	0.6910
$\beta_{1,19}$	0.5812	1.0838	0.2259	-0.3903	0.5135	-0.5347
$\beta_{1,20}$	0.6191	-0.4804	-0.0682	-0.5682	-0.3826	-0.7640
$\beta_{1,21}$	0.6698	0.2659	0.2141	0.8130	0.2298	-0.6954
$\beta_{1,22}$	-0.2458	0.2908	0.2758	0.2234	0.3322	0.6123
$\beta_{1,23}$	-0.8509	-1.3416	-0.3245	-0.6300	0.0163	-0.3453
$\beta_{1,24}$	0.7007	-0.5843	-0.7266	-0.8189	-0.1402	0.6505
$\beta_{1,25}$	0.9783	0.3227	0.3020	0.4810	0.2310	-0.2127
$\beta_{1,26}$	-0.0054	0.6926	-0.2134	-0.0262	-0.0272	0.3560
$\beta_{1,27}$	0.7500	-0.2577	0.3175	-0.4975	0.1049	-1.5066
$\beta_{1,28}$	-1.1742	0.6216	1.0195	1.3709	-0.4434	0.3508
$\beta_{1,29}$	1.7564	-0.8654	-0.1511	-0.5030	0.2037	0.6809
$\beta_{1,30}$	2.2156	0.0880	-0.4663	0.6194	2.0118	1.5760
$\beta_{1,31}$	-1.0567	0.2385	-0.0542	0.0108	-0.0963	-0.4039
$\beta_{1,32}$	-0.5275	1.4458	0.7706	0.6045	0.2591	0.0243

55

TABLE 4 (continued)

Prediction Coefficients for Layer II: 44.1 kHz Audio

Coefficient	Subband i = 13	Subband i = 14	Subband i = 15	Subband i = 16	Subband i = 17	Subband i = 18
0 _{1,1}	-0.1445	0.0001	-0.4740	-0.1630	-0.1056	0.0538
0 _{1,2}	0.1140	0.2163	0.1235	0.3498	-0.1939	0.1823
0 _{1,3}	0.3062	0.6339	0.8386	0.2377	0.9282	-0.0668
0 _{1,4}	-0.3067	-0.1373	-0.2545	-0.2870	-0.1948	-0.7304
0 _{1,5}	-0.8326	-1.0917	-0.8531	-0.5495	-0.2500	0.2835
0 _{1,6}	1.4503	1.1133	0.8176	1.3875	-0.1623	0.4340
0 _{1,7}	0.6638	0.4982	0.3884	0.0405	0.3954	-0.0676
0 _{1,8}	-0.2277	-0.3260	-0.5920	-0.8833	-0.4966	-0.2996
0 _{1,9}	0.2493	-0.0146	0.4681	0.0503	-0.6338	-0.0135
0 _{1,10}	-0.8480	0.3254	-0.0310	0.2479	0.2758	-0.0399
0 _{1,11}	-0.3632	-0.5052	0.5157	0.0093	1.0958	0.3566
0 _{1,12}	-0.1298	0.0696	0.5307	0.2423	0.2312	-0.1894
0 _{1,13}	3.3420	-0.5958	-1.3049	-0.2894	-0.5655	0.3349
0 _{1,14}	1.1648	5.6659	1.1919	1.0715	0.7131	0.6184
0 _{1,15}	-0.7904	-0.0575	4.3753	0.0433	0.1759	0.0768
0 _{1,16}	0.2817	0.3132	0.3793	4.8584	0.3828	0.1333
0 _{1,17}	0.1199	0.4240	0.3486	0.5579	5.0758	0.8538
0 _{1,18}	0.0504	0.0885	-0.6371	-0.1830	0.5832	4.2329
0 _{1,19}	0.3694	-0.5365	0.5251	0.8091	0.7703	0.7182
0 _{1,20}	-0.3909	-0.2736	-0.8338	-0.7046	-0.2375	0.2030
0 _{1,21}	-0.1979	-0.1481	-0.0332	-0.2540	-0.1725	0.9253
0 _{1,22}	-0.5387	-0.1930	0.4162	-0.0887	-0.1400	-0.0162
0 _{1,23}	-0.6735	-0.7648	-0.3193	-0.2939	0.5383	0.2479
0 _{1,24}	-0.3010	-0.2550	-0.8299	-0.6217	-0.1824	0.4166
0 _{1,25}	-0.7076	-0.6387	-0.9475	-1.4466	-0.1877	-0.6739
0 _{1,26}	1.2993	1.5936	0.9190	1.8248	0.3677	0.0344
0 _{1,27}	0.0191	-0.2664	0.4663	-0.2702	0.1597	-0.2707
0 _{1,28}	-0.7677	-1.3338	-0.4674	-0.4114	-0.2825	0.0564
0 _{1,29}	-0.3052	-0.5788	-0.3467	-0.4042	-0.0791	0.5045
0 _{1,30}	0.3666	-0.1946	-1.9297	-0.1584	-0.6148	-0.0993
0 _{1,31}	0.5185	0.1967	-0.1752	-0.7871	0.4143	-0.2666
0 _{1,32}	-1.7128	-1.8878	-1.1271	-0.8648	-1.3223	-0.3072

TABLE 4 (continued)

Prediction Coefficients for Layer II: 44.1 kHz Audio

Coefficient	Subband $i = 19$	Subband $i = 20$	Subband $i = 21$	Subband $i = 22$	Subband $i = 23$	Subband $i = 24$
1.1	-0.0485	-0.0339	-0.4940	-0.2500	-0.2398	-0.3600
1.2	0.2647	-0.0294	0.0395	0.0025	0.1776	0.1191
1.3	0.0471	0.2391	0.3646	0.2870	-0.1482	-0.0506
1.4	-0.1224	-0.0058	-0.0234	0.1898	0.2717	0.2731
1.5	-0.2295	0.0735	0.4098	-0.1130	0.2586	-0.2197
1.6	0.2387	-0.4301	-0.5410	-0.2607	-0.2697	0.3032
1.7	0.0495	0.4933	0.0448	0.4024	-0.1867	0.1576
1.8	-0.2680	-0.7624	-0.0707	-0.2902	-0.2007	-0.2316
1.9	0.0527	0.3177	-0.0853	0.0785	-0.0756	-0.1650
1.10	0.2962	-0.3306	-0.4032	-0.6841	0.2383	0.0124
1.11	0.3909	0.0897	0.7569	0.2041	-0.1864	-0.1056
1.12	-0.3811	0.2900	-0.4246	-0.5780	-0.1238	-0.2029
1.13	0.0619	0.0468	0.0987	0.1977	0.3736	0.1687
1.14	1.1583	0.8883	0.3298	0.3915	-0.0034	0.1759
1.15	0.0434	-0.0363	0.4752	0.3965	-0.2699	-0.1196
1.16	-0.0327	0.5979	0.5436	0.1287	0.1302	-0.3522
1.17	-0.2731	-0.2915	-0.7558	0.3653	0.0992	-0.1332
1.18	-0.1273	-0.2421	0.3911	0.1373	0.4678	0.4055
1.19	5.5714	0.6748	-0.3235	0.5827	0.0745	0.5307
1.20	0.4043	4.6221	1.3932	0.4878	0.0328	-0.1948
1.21	0.0577	1.1209	5.4071	0.8942	0.0214	0.7408
1.22	0.6878	0.8483	0.4218	4.1846	0.7094	0.2846
1.23	0.3209	0.7356	0.7075	0.4631	5.8810	0.7045
1.24	0.2426	-0.2516	-0.0679	0.3256	0.4452	4.4781
1.25	0.5458	0.5447	0.0416	0.7587	0.5337	0.7645
1.26	0.2564	-1.0755	0.3580	0.0440	0.6479	1.5115
1.27	-0.0808	-0.0255	-0.4927	-0.5170	-0.7761	-0.3848
1.28	-1.1592	-0.3195	-0.2281	-0.1046	0.5825	0.7565
1.29	0.7718	0.4043	0.3381	0.1646	-0.1260	0.0513
1.30	-0.5233	0.5524	-0.1618	0.4835	-0.5558	0.5927
1.31	0.2348	0.1490	-0.5860	-0.5451	-0.4079	-0.7497
1.32	0.1854	0.1415	0.5935	0.8133	0.6955	-0.1939

TABLE 4 (continued)

Prediction Coefficients for Layer II: 44.1 kHz Audio

Coefficient	Subband i = 25	Subband i = 26	Subband i = 27	Subband i = 28	Subband i = 29	Subband i = 30
0.1,1	-0.1550	-0.0200	0.1174	0.0498	-0.1578	-0.1562
0.1,2	0.1605	-0.1625	-0.1983	0.1010	-0.3790	0.3099
0.1,3	0.0590	0.1581	0.3025	-0.0533	0.0488	-0.3771
0.1,4	0.0574	0.1310	0.0719	0.2966	0.2290	0.3475
0.1,5	-0.1564	-0.1493	-0.1036	-0.4788	0.2358	-0.0073
0.1,6	0.0302	0.2663	0.1106	-0.0153	-0.3176	-0.0200
0.1,7	0.4498	-0.1070	0.0433	0.3191	0.2023	-0.1688
0.1,8	-0.2483	0.0137	0.1660	-0.0093	-0.1259	0.0162
0.1,9	-0.1811	-0.1116	-0.2952	-0.1463	-0.2163	0.3120
0.1,10	0.1848	0.0518	0.2039	0.0580	0.0976	-0.2136
0.1,11	-0.1308	0.2524	-0.4377	-0.1373	-0.1875	0.0076
0.1,12	0.1140	-0.7126	0.1474	-0.0623	-0.3597	-0.7670
0.1,13	0.0066	0.1197	0.0739	-0.3800	0.5235	-0.0404
0.1,14	-0.2321	0.0934	-0.2244	0.2301	0.3646	0.2632
0.1,15	0.1612	0.4398	0.1587	0.4257	0.1155	0.3336
0.1,16	0.1155	0.5785	0.3343	0.3222	0.1984	0.0597
0.1,17	-0.6569	-0.5282	-0.2154	-0.0601	0.0122	0.3061
0.1,18	0.4013	0.6469	0.4331	-0.1212	-0.5454	-0.1215
0.1,19	0.0582	-0.1264	-0.0503	0.6994	0.4843	0.1620
0.1,20	0.3179	-0.7231	-0.5993	-0.7145	0.0067	-0.4917
0.1,21	0.1719	-0.1998	0.4064	0.4057	0.0105	0.3817
0.1,22	0.3436	0.1850	-0.0352	-0.6742	-1.5146	0.1600
0.1,23	0.4617	0.1147	-0.0673	0.2490	0.2047	-0.0210
0.1,24	0.3253	0.1603	0.3573	0.3972	-0.2362	0.0544
0.1,25	4.5404	2.1734	0.8058	0.6493	0.5042	-0.7486
0.1,26	1.1162	4.3780	1.6207	0.5467	0.6825	0.0874
0.1,27	0.1208	0.8766	2.2766	0.1984	0.2400	0.0877
0.1,28	1.6247	0.5639	1.7034	3.9863	1.2691	1.3673
0.1,29	-0.5361	-0.1341	0.6578	1.1650	3.1758	0.8680
0.1,30	0.5037	-0.1750	0.3979	0.9975	1.4399	3.5743
0.1,31	-0.2560	-0.3455	-0.1783	-0.3244	0.0858	1.1989
0.1,32	-0.3679	0.0333	0.2485	-0.4472	1.1612	-0.4377

TABLE 4 (continued)

Prediction Coefficients for Layer II: 44.1 kHz Audio

Coefficient	Subband $i = 31$	Subband $i = 32$	Constant Term $\beta_{k,33}, k = 1, 2, \dots, 32$
$\beta_{1,1}$	0.0000	0.0000	61.1770
$\beta_{1,2}$	0.0000	0.0000	41.1430
$\beta_{1,3}$	0.0000	0.0000	31.4470
$\beta_{1,4}$	0.0000	0.0000	29.1800
$\beta_{1,5}$	0.0000	0.0000	36.9870
$\beta_{1,6}$	0.0000	0.0000	24.8860
$\beta_{1,7}$	0.0000	0.0000	20.4090
$\beta_{1,8}$	0.0000	0.0000	23.4100
$\beta_{1,9}$	0.0000	0.0000	1.8837
$\beta_{1,10}$	0.0000	0.0000	-1.0521
$\beta_{1,11}$	0.0000	0.0000	7.1428
$\beta_{1,12}$	0.0000	0.0000	-3.0178
$\beta_{1,13}$	0.0000	0.0000	5.5368
$\beta_{1,14}$	0.0000	0.0000	1.2677
$\beta_{1,15}$	0.0000	0.0000	-2.4966
$\beta_{1,16}$	0.0000	0.0000	11.2500
$\beta_{1,17}$	0.0000	0.0000	17.8550
$\beta_{1,18}$	0.0000	0.0000	43.4680
$\beta_{1,19}$	0.0000	0.0000	46.1350
$\beta_{1,20}$	0.0000	0.0000	44.5340
$\beta_{1,21}$	0.0000	0.0000	31.2180
$\beta_{1,22}$	0.0000	0.0000	28.2240
$\beta_{1,23}$	0.0000	0.0000	14.3030
$\beta_{1,24}$	0.0000	0.0000	8.1030
$\beta_{1,25}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.0626
$\beta_{1,26}$	0.0000	0.0000	-5.9461
$\beta_{1,27}$	0.0000	0.0000	-2.5182
$\beta_{1,28}$	0.0000	0.0000	-9.1175
$\beta_{1,29}$	0.0000	0.0000	0.2438
$\beta_{1,30}$	0.0000	0.0000	-30.0680
$\beta_{1,31}$	0.0000	0.0000	-96.0000
$\beta_{1,32}$	0.0000	0.0000	-96.0000

Although the tables do not show values for Layer III, these values may be determined according the methodology set forth above in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. If values for β_{ij} corresponding to 32 and 48 kHz signals are desired, the methodology set forth above also may be utilized to determined the values in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the process of the present invention may be "tuned" for a specific type of music. For example, if a user sending an audio signal for classic music desires to encode only the classical violin, samples from a classic violin source may be collected in estimating β_{ij} 's. The estimated β_{ij} 's will be better suited for classical violin. Furthermore, a user may obtain several sets of β_{ij} 's corresponding to different types of music and one set may be selected by the user appropriately.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, squared-energy values for subband samples $S_{i,j}$ may be employed instead of absolute values in equation (6):

$$x_i = \log_{10} \left(\sum_{l=1}^L (S_{i,l})^2 \right) \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, 32 + C$$

The constant 'C' can be selected using empirical observations. By attempting to equate X's to normalized sound pressure levels, C can be set to about 82.53 dB. The determination of prediction coefficients, β_{ij} , in equation (1) also will replace pseudo-energy values with squared-energy values in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Referring now to Figure 7, data processing system 10 includes a system 12, a video display terminal 14, a keyboard 16, and a mouse 18. Data processing system 10 may be implemented utilizing any suitable computer, such as an IBM PS/2 or IBM RISC SYSTEM/6000 computer, both products of International Business Machines Corporation, located in Armonk, New York. "PS/2" and "RISC SYSTEM/6000" are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. Although, the depicted embodiment is a personal computer, a preferred embodiment of the present invention may be implemented in other types of data processing systems, such as, for example, intelligent workstations, mini computers, local area networks, or special purpose multimedia devices using standard digital signal processors.

Referring now to Figure 8, a block diagram of a data processing system 10 in Figure 7 is illustrated in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. System bus 11 provides a connection between various components within data processing system 10. Central processing unit (CPU) 22 provides the decision making capability in data processing system 10. CPU 22 may include one or more processors, such as an 80486 processor or a Pentium processor available from Intel Corporation in Santa Clara, California. "Pentium" is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Other processors that may be used include Power PC available from IBM/Motorola or Alpha AXP processors from Digital Equipment.

Memory 24 provides a storage for data processing system 10 and may include both read only memory (ROM) and random access memory (RAM). Direct access storage device (DASD) 26 provides additional storage for data processing system 10. DASD 26 typically provides long term storage for data processing system 10. DASD 26 may include, for example, a hard disk drive or a floppy disk drive.

Various peripherals, such as keyboard 16, video display terminal 14, and mouse 18 may be utilized to interact with data processing system 10. According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, an audio capture and playback adapter (ACPA) 25 may be employed to obtain audio samples. Specifically, an IBM Audio Capture and Playback Adapter, available from International Business Machines Corporation, may be utilized. Popular Sound Blaster and other sound cards may also be utilized. If audio data can be directly read from the CD or DAT, these sources also may be utilized.

Communications unit 28 provides the interface between the data processing system 10 and some other data processing system such as another personal computer or a network.

The digital audio signal processed by the present invention may originate from stored data in DASD 26, or may be received at communications unit 28, or from some other source of data that is connected to the data processing system, such as ACPA 25.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention may be implemented in an IBM RISC SYSTEM/6000 computer, which is a product of International Business Machines Corporation, located in Armonk, New York. "RISC SYSTEM/6000" is a trademark of International Business Machines Corporation. The processes of the present invention may be implemented within the data processing system depicted in Figures 7 and 8 or in hardware.

Accordingly, the present invention allows a simpler implementation than the process depicted in Figure 1. The present invention also may be utilized with psychoacoustic models other than those specified by MPEG.

Single cycle multiply accumulate (MAC) operations required by the present invention are simpler to carry out in most DSPs. Hence, computing each β_i in equation (6) may require as low as 33 instruction cycles in such processors.

Instead, of require two or more cycles, (multiplication and addition), the operation can be performed in one instruction cycle. Furthermore, in a fixed-point DSP, the truncation can be made to the result in the accumulator at the end of all addition, thus preventing round-off errors after each accumulation.

Furthermore, process of the present invention is faster because the number of instruction cycles required are much less than a process utilizing PM1 or PM2 in a standard DSP environment in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The performance gains provided by the present invention provides a more efficient encoding process for data. Also, the a preferred embodiment of the present invention may be implemented with a single DSP.

Although the depicted embodiments are directed towards a audio compression scheme, the present invention may be utilized to provide subband coding for other data signals such as video. In video, subband coding employing a psychovisual weighting may be implemented in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Claims

1. A method in a data processing system for efficiently compressing a digital audio signal, wherein said digital audio signal includes a plurality of samples, said method comprising:

separating each of said plurality of samples into a plurality of subbands;

predicting a signal to mask ratio for each of said plurality of subbands utilizing a model of relationships between energy values within each of said plurality of subbands and signal to mask ratios values based on a predetermined psychoacoustic model;

allocating a number of bits in response to said predicted signal to mask ratio and a preselected bit-rate; and

quantizing each of said plurality of subbands based on said number of bits allocated, wherein said digital audio signal may be efficiently compressed.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of predicting a signal to mask ratio includes predicting said signal to mask ratio according to the equation:

$$y_i = \sum_{j=1}^N \beta_{i,j} x_j + \beta_{i,33}$$

wherein y_i is a signal to mask ratio for subband i , j is the sample frame, N is a number of sample frames, $\beta_{i,j}$ is a prediction coefficient, $\beta_{i,33}$ is a bias coefficient, and x_j is an energy value for subband i .

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 further comprising ascertaining prediction coefficients according to the equation:

$$y_k(j) = \sum_{i=1}^{33} \beta_{k,i} x_i(j) + \epsilon_k(j), \quad j=1, 2, \dots, N$$

wherein $y_k(j)$ is a signal to mask ratio for a subband k at same frame j , k is a subband number, j is a frame number, N is a number of frames, $\epsilon_k(j)$ is a modelling error for subband k at frame j .

4. A method as claimed in any previous claim further comprising acquiring signal to mask ratios from a psychoacoustic model.
5. A data processing system for compressing a digital audio signal, wherein said digital audio signal includes a plurality of samples, said data processing system comprising:
- separation means for separating each of said plurality of samples into a plurality of subbands;
 - prediction means for predicting a signal to mask ratio for each of said plurality of subbands utilizing a model of relationships between energy values within each of said plurality of subbands and signal to mask ratios values based on a predetermined psychoacoustic model;
 - allocation means for allocating a number of bits in response to said predicted signal to mask ratio and a preselected bit-rate; and
 - quantization means for quantizing each of said plurality of subbands based on said number of bits allocated, wherein said digital audio signal may be efficiently compressed.
6. A data processing system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said prediction means includes means for predicting said signal to mask ratio according to the equation:

$$y_i = \sum_{j=1}^N \beta_{i,j} x_j + \beta_{i,33}$$

wherein y_i is a signal to mask ratio for subband i , j is the sample frame, N is a number of sample frames, $\beta_{i,j}$ is a prediction coefficient, $\beta_{i,33}$ is a bias coefficient, and x_j is an energy value for subband i .

7. A data processing system as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6 further comprising means for ascertaining prediction coefficients according to the equation:

$$y_k(j) = \sum_{i=1}^{33} \beta_{k,i} x_i(j) + e_k(j), \quad j=1, 2, \dots, N$$

- 5 wherein $y_k(j)$ is a signal to mask ratio for a subband k at same frame j , k is a subband number, j is a frame number, N is a number of frames, $e_k(j)$ is a modelling error for subband k at frame j .
8. A data processing system as claimed in any of claims 5 to 6 further comprising means for acquiring signal to mask ratios from a psychoacoustic model.
- 10 9. A data processing system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said psychoacoustic model is a psychoacoustic model specified in the MPEG standard.
- 15 10. A data processing system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said psychoacoustic model is Psychoacoustic Model 2.
11. A data processing system as claimed in claim 6, wherein x_j is a pseudo-energy value for subband j .
12. A data processing system as claimed in claim 6, wherein x_j is a squared-energy value for subband j .
- 20 13. A data processing system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said model is a plurality of prediction coefficients.

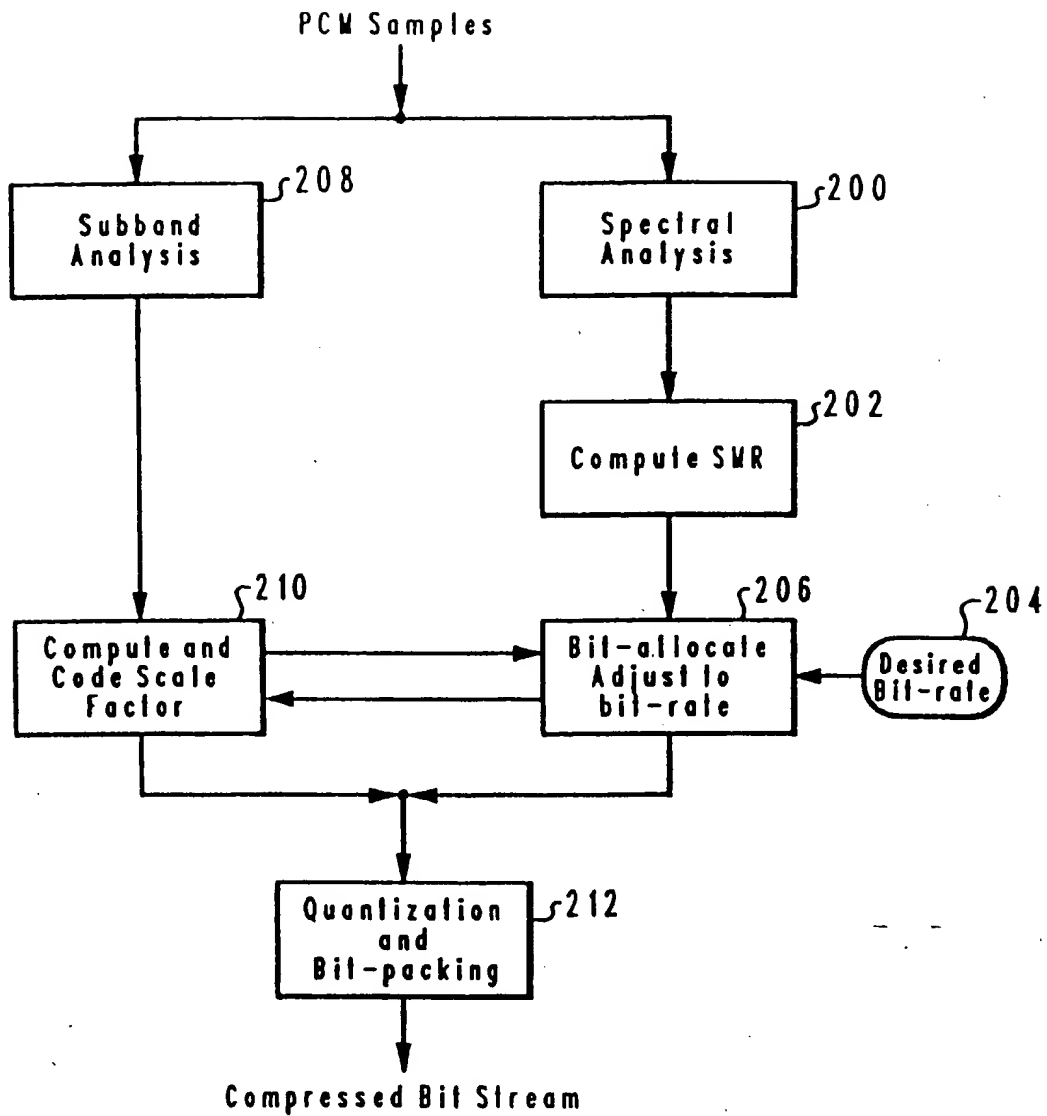


Fig. 1
PRIOR ART

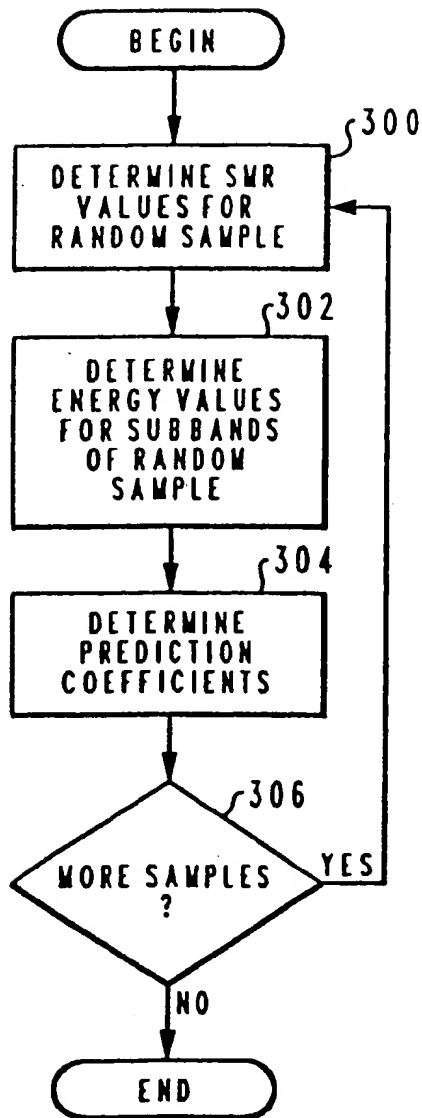


Fig. 2

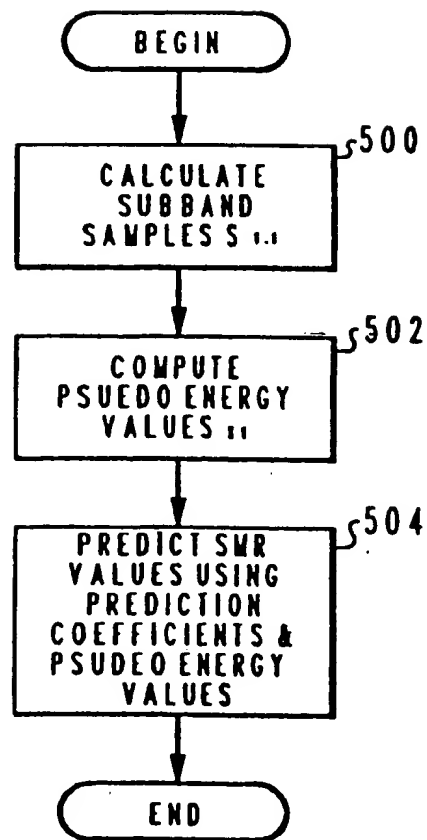


Fig. 6

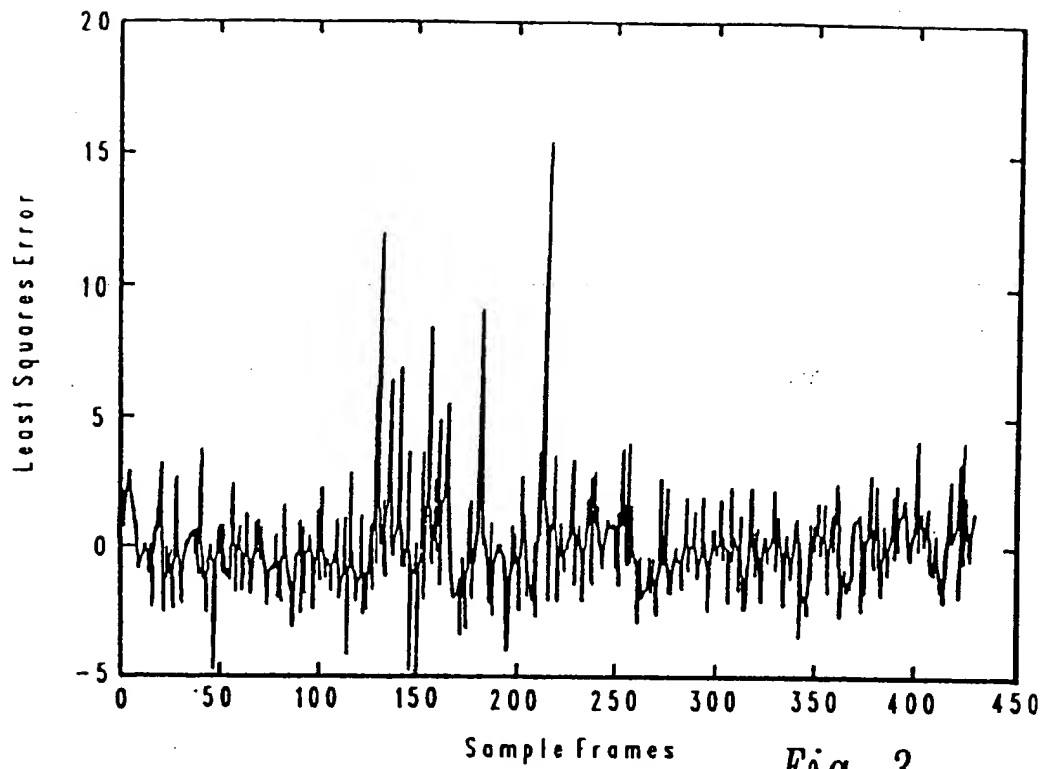


Fig. 3

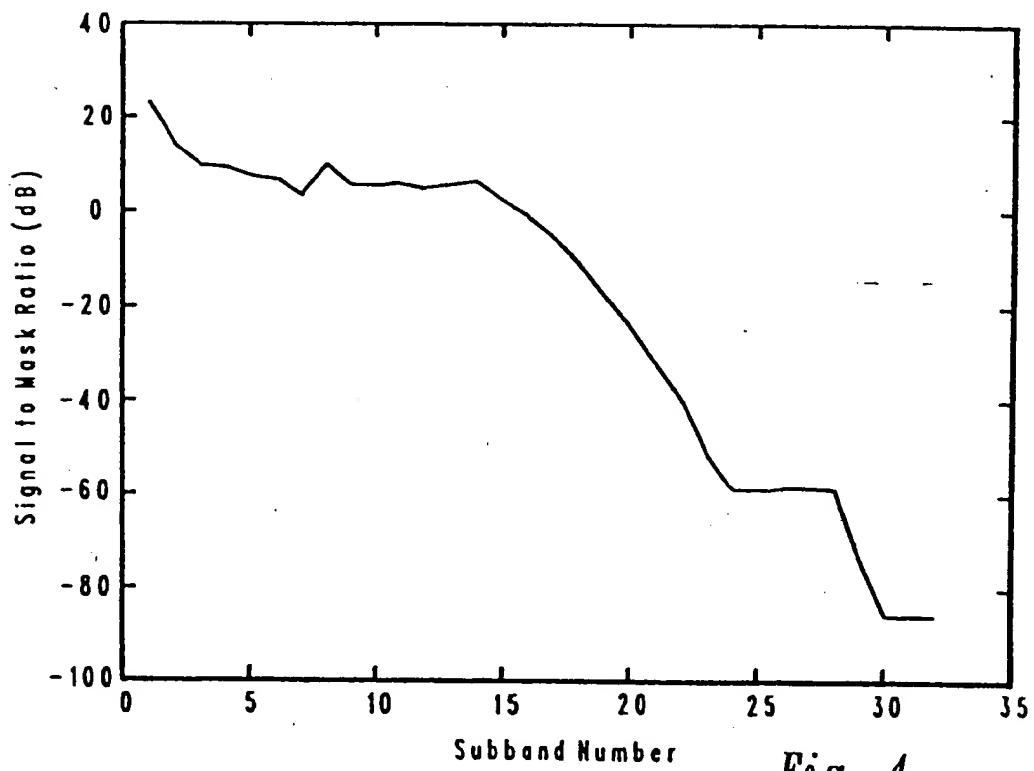


Fig. 4

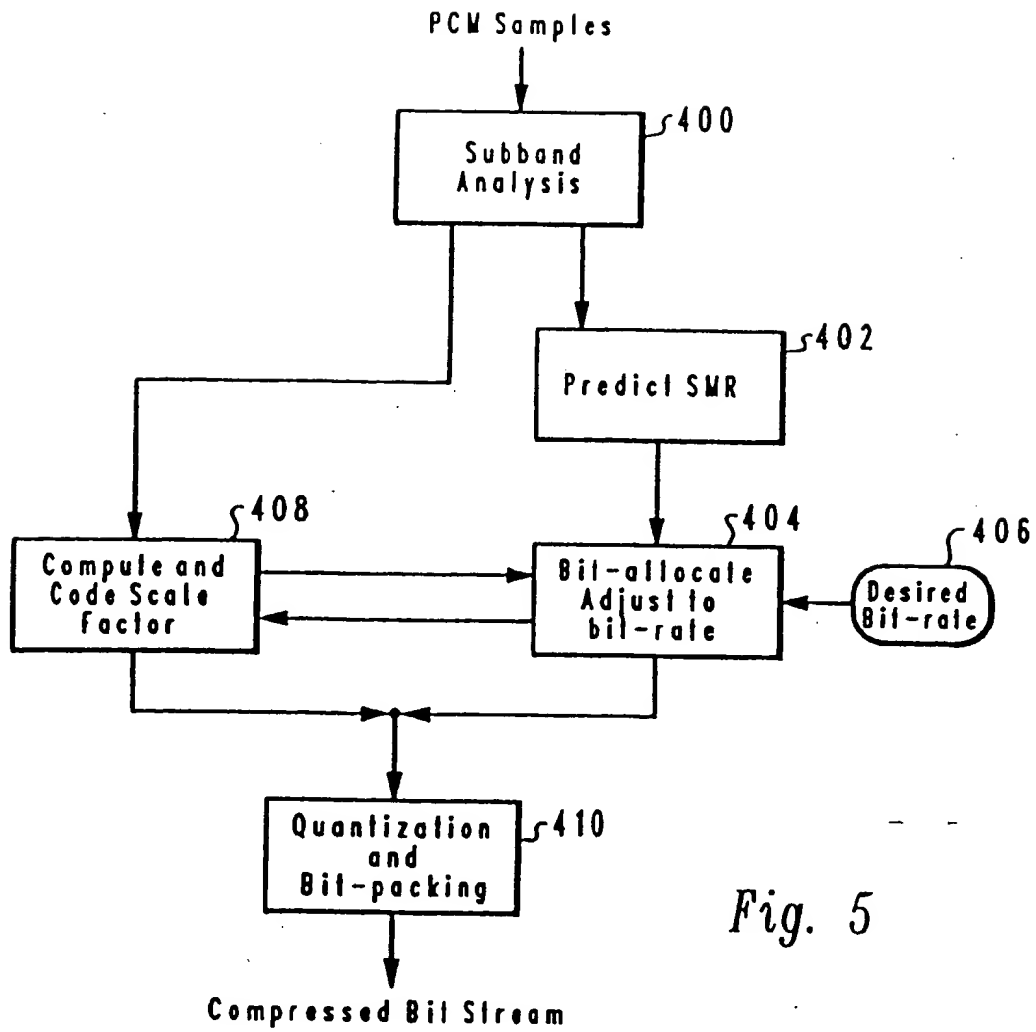


Fig. 5

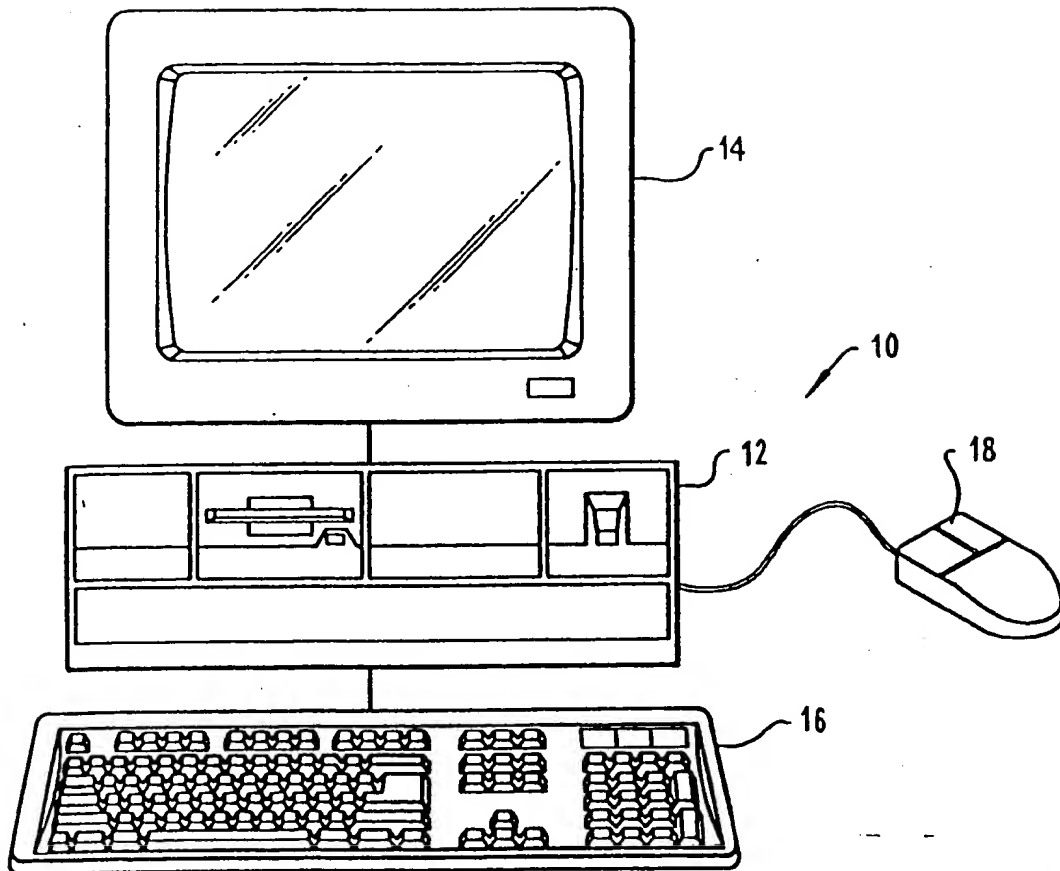


Fig. 7

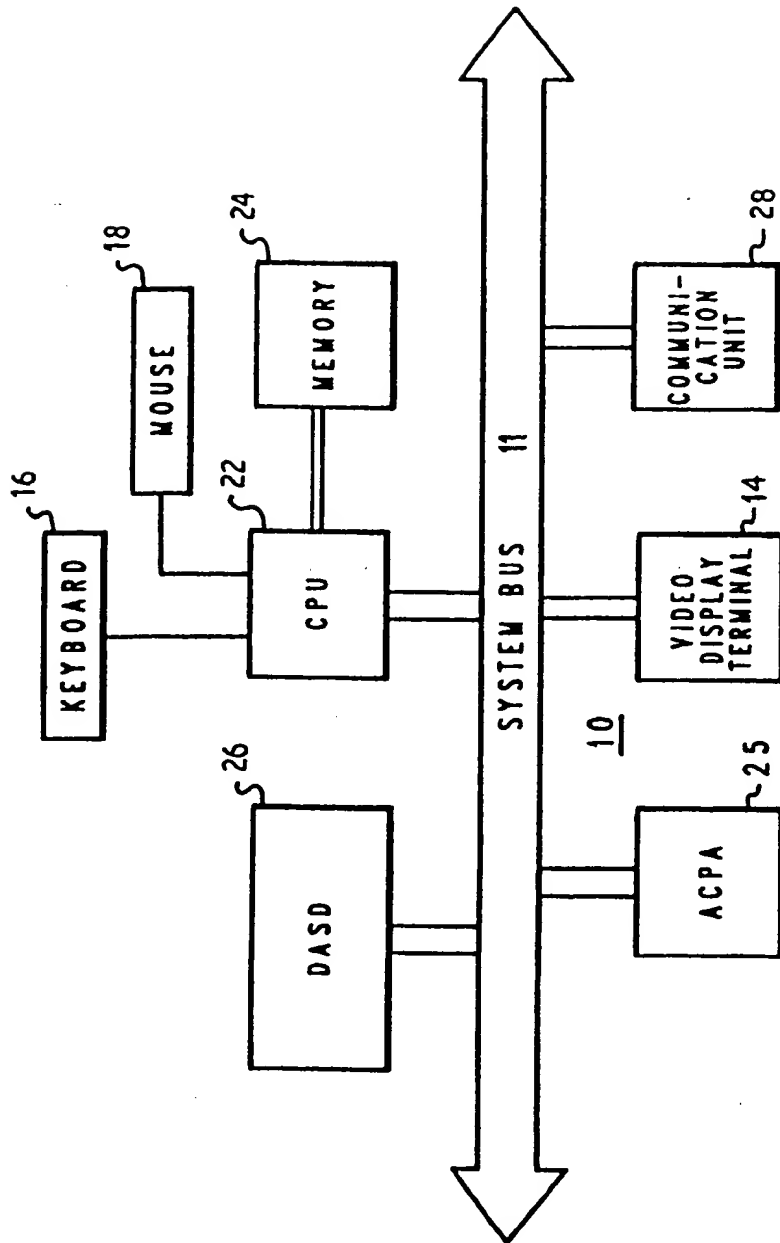


Fig. 8